

Message Text

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AMEMBASSY LONDON

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AMEMBASSY ROME

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TAGS: PFOR PBOR MOPS XF IS DA UR EG

SUBJECT: DANISH FOREIGN MIN RETURNS FROM ISRAEL: DANISH

JOURNALISTS INTERVIEW ISRAELI FONMIN

SUMMARY: ON HIS RETURN TO COPENHAGEN DECEMBER 19 FROM A 4 DAY

VISIT TO ISRAEL, FOREIGN MINISTER GULDBERG TOLD JOURNALISTS

THAT HE WAS CONVINCED ISRAEL WANTS TO ACHIEVE PEACE BY

DIPLOMATIC MEANS. ISREALI FOR MIN ALLON IS

REPORTED AS SAYING THAT ISRAEL HAD HOPED THAT AGREEMENTS

ON TROOP SEPARATION ACHIEVED THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF

SECRETARY KISSINGER WOULD LEAD TO AN OVERALL SETTLEMENT

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IN THE MIDDLE EAST: FAILING SUCH SETTLEMENT ISRAEL

IS READY TO START THE SECOND ROUND OF NEGOTIATIONS WITH THE ARABS WITHOUT PRECONDITIONS. BOTH SIDES MUST BE WILLING TO COMPROMISE, ISRAEL ON TERRITORY AND EGYPT STRATEGICALLY AND MILITARILY. IF THE ARABS WISH TO START A NEW WAR ISRAEL IS PREPARED AND WILL WIN IT. ALLON SAID THE SOVIETS ARE PLAYING A VERY NEGATIVE PART AT PRESENT. THE EC DIALOGUE WITH THE ARABS IS INTENDED BY THE FRENCH TO GIVE THEM A SPECIAL POSITION WITH THE OIL PRODUCERS AT THE EXPENSE OF THE US END SUMMARY.

1. DANISH FOREIGN MINISTER OVE GULDBERG RETURNED DEC 19 FROM A FOUR DAY VISIT TO ISRAEL. UPON HIS RETURN HE TOLD A BERLINGSKE TIDENDE CORRESPONDENT THAT HE WAS "CONVINCED" THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF ISRAEL WANTS TO MAKE PROGRESS TOWARD PEACE BY DIPLOMATIC MEANS. "WHEN I RECENTLY TALKED WITH SECRETARY KISSINGER IN BRUSSELS HE WAS RATHER PESSIMISTIC AS IT WAS HIS IMPRESSION THAT POSITIONS IN THE MIDDLE EAST WERE FAIRLY INFLEXIBLE. YOU CAN SAY THAT MY EVALUATION HAS NOT BECOME MORE PESSIMISTIC (AS A RESULT OF THE VISIT EVEN IF THE SITUATION STILL IS VERY TENSE AND THE CITIZENS OF ISRAEL ARE CONCERNED ABOUT THE FUTURE."

2. GULDBERG SAID THE ISRAELIS BELIEVED THE FORTHCOMING VISIT OF BREZHNEV TO EGYPT WOULD NOT MAKE THINGS ANY EASIER.

3. MUCH OF THE TALK BETWEEN GULDBERG AND THE ISRAELI LEADERS CONCERNED THE EC WHOSE NEW ASSOCIATION AGREEMENT WITH ISRAEL WAS RECEIVED THERE AS "THE BEST NEWS OF THE YEAR", GULDBERG ADDED.

4. DEC 20 DANISH DAILIES ALSO CARRIED A RELATIVELY LENGTHY INTERVIEW OF ISRAELI FORMER YIGAL ALLON BY DANISH JOURNALISTS WHO ACCOMPANIED GULDBERG.

5. ALLON SAID "ISRAEL IS PREPARED TO NEGOTIATE A PEACE TREATY WITH EVERY SINGLE ARAB COUNTRY WITHOUT PRIOR CONDITIONS. THROUGH THE GOOD OFFICES OF THE US UNCLASSIFIED

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SECRETARY OF STATE HENRY KISSINGER WE HAVE ALREADY ACHIEVED SOME TEMPORARY AGREEMENTS THAT LED TO TROOP SEPARATION. IT WAS (OUR) HOPE THAT THESE AGREEMENTS WOULD LEAD TO AN OVERALL AGREEMENT. IF WE CANNOT REACH AGREEMENT ON A FINAL SETTLEMENT YET (ON THE BASIS OF THE TEMPORARY AGREEMENTS) ISRAEL IS READY TO START THE SECOND ROUND IN THE NEGOTIATIONS ALSO WITHOUT ANY PRE CONDITIONS". ALLON SAID THAT THE PROSPECTS THAT THE

AGREEMENT ON TROOP DIVISION MIGHT LEAD TO A POLITICAL SOLUTION HAD CAUSED THE PLO LEADERS TO UNDERMINE SUCH A SOLUTION. I MUST SAY, ALLON ADDED, THAT THE RESOLUTION OF THE PLO IN THE UN HAVE DELAYED A POLITICAL SOLUTION MORE THAN EVER".

6. ALLON REPORTEDLY STRESSED THAT THERE COULD BE NO MILITARY SOLUTION TO THE ARAB ISRAELI CONFLICT. ON THE OTHER HAND ISRAEL WILL NEVER LET ITSELF BE TAKEN BY SURPRISE AGAIN. "AREN'T WE BETTER PREPARED NOW" WE ARE A LOT STRONGER THAN BEFORE. SO WHAT WILL THEY ACHIEVE BY STARTING A NEW WAR? WE WILL WIN IT".

7. ALLON SAID HE WANTED TO GIVE THE "POLITICAL ALTERNATIVE" A NEW CHANCE IF IT FAILED ISRAELI IS PREPARED FOR WAR AND WILL ACT AS IF IT WERE UNAVOIDABLE AT THE SAME TIME IT WILL STRIVE FOR PEACE AS IF IT WERE ACHIEVABLE.

8. REFERRING TO THE DEMAND BY EGYPTIAN FORMER FAHMY ALLON REPLIED THAT NO COUNTRY HAS THE RIGHT TO DECIDE WHETHER ANOTHER COUNTRY CAN ACCEPT IMMIGRANTS. THE QUESTION OF BORDERS CANNOT BE DECIDED BY ADVANCE CONCESSIONS BUT ONLY BY NEGOTIATIONS. "I HOPE" HE ADDED "THE SADAT'S SUBSEQUENT STATEMENT IS MORE AUTHORITATIVE, EVEN IF IT CONTAINS ADVANCE CONDITIONS".

9. "THE NEGOTIATIONS CANNOT BE DECIDED BEFORE THEY BEGIN. WHY CAN'T THE ARABS AGREE TO START THEM AT ONCE WITHOUT FIRST USING PRESSURE AND THREATS". I AM READY TO LISTEN TO THEM. THE ISSUE IS NOT WHETHER WE SHOULD BE INSULTED BY FAHMY'S DEMAND. WHAT BOTHERS ME IS THAT THE ATMOSPHERE SHOULD BE POISONED BEFORE THE

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NEGOTIATIONS START". ALLON SAID THAT NEGOTIATIONS COULD AIM FOR A PERMANENT OR A TEMPORARY AGREEMENT.

10. "BOTH SIDES MUST BE WILLING TO COMPROMISE", ISRAEL WILL NEVER ACCEPT A COMPULSORY SOLUTION". OPINION POLLS INDICATE THAT TWO-THIRDS OF THE ISRAELIS WANT TO KEEP THE WEST BANK BUT ALLON INDICATED THAT A COMPROMISE COULD COVER THE WITHDRAWAL FROM A NUMBER OF AREAS THERE.

11. ALLON FEARED THAT THE MASSIVE MILITARY ARMS BUILD-UP IN THE MIDDLE EAST COULD LEAD TO A NEW WAR BETWEEN ISRAEL AND ITS ARAB NEIGHBORS EVEN IF HIS GOVERNMENT IS READY FOR IMMEDIATE AND UNCONDITIONAL NEGOTIATIONS. THE SOVIET UNION IS PLAYING A VERY NEGATIVE PART DURING THE PRESENT PHASE.

12. ALLON DESCRIBED THE PLANNED DIALOGUE BETWEEN THE ISRAELIS AND ARABS AS FRENCH INSPIRED AND SAID THAT THE PURPOSE OF IT IS TO GIVE EUROPE ESPECIALLY FRANCE A SPECIAL POSITION VIS-A-VIS THE OIL PRODUCING COUNTRIES AT THE EXPENSE OF THE US. HE REJECTED THE IDEA THAT A EUROPE STANDING TOGETHER AND USING ITS OWN STRENGTH WOULD HAVE TO GIVE WAY TO PRESSURE FROM THE ARAB OIL COUNTRIES.

13. ALLON SAID THAT HE WAS "SATISFIED" THAT DENMARK HAD JOINED THE EC. POLITICAL COOPERATION WITHIN THE EC FOR EXAMPLE ON VOTING IN THE UN COULD MEAN DENMARK WOULD ABSTAIN INSTEAD OF VOTE FOR ISRAEL. BUT THIS CAN BE BETTER THAN A NEGATIVE VOTE. "THERE ARE NO PROBLEMS BETWEEN ISREAL AND DENMARK AND IF WE DISAGREE AT TIMES IT IS DISAGREEMENT AMONG FRIENDS".

14 THE EMBASSY WILL FOLLOW UP TO OBTAIN DETAILS OF THE GULDBERG VISIT.
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